

FIRST
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BADDER™



WHO ARE THESE GUYS, ANYWAY?



The Badger is **Norbert Sykes**, a Vietnam veteran suffering from an extremely rare multiple personality disorder: Seven great personalities in one. The personality most frequently inhabited by Norbert, indeed almost *exclusively preferred*, is the Badger, a self-styled crime fighter who rides the highways and by-ways of America, meting out bloody justice to jaywalkers, ticket scalpers, indifferent teenaged fast food clerks, in fact, *any damn body he feels like because he's CRAZY!*

Badger is an expert at hand-to-hand combat. He began his training in Shorin-ryu but has since gone on to master dozens of obscure, esoteric, arcane, not to mention abstruse martial arts, the likes of which you seldom hear about.

He can also talk to the animals — just like Dr. Doolittle, or Lorne Greene. Only Badger gets better results than Lorne Greene.

Badger lives with **Ham the Weather Wizard** in a castle south of Barneveld, Wisconsin. Ham and Badger met while both were inmates at a state mental hospital. Through cunning and chicanery, Ham has amassed a considerable fortune.

This Issue: Badger, worn out after fighting Nazis in Barnveld for 52 pages, decides he needs to get away. He mounts his trusty buffalo Lamont and heads north.

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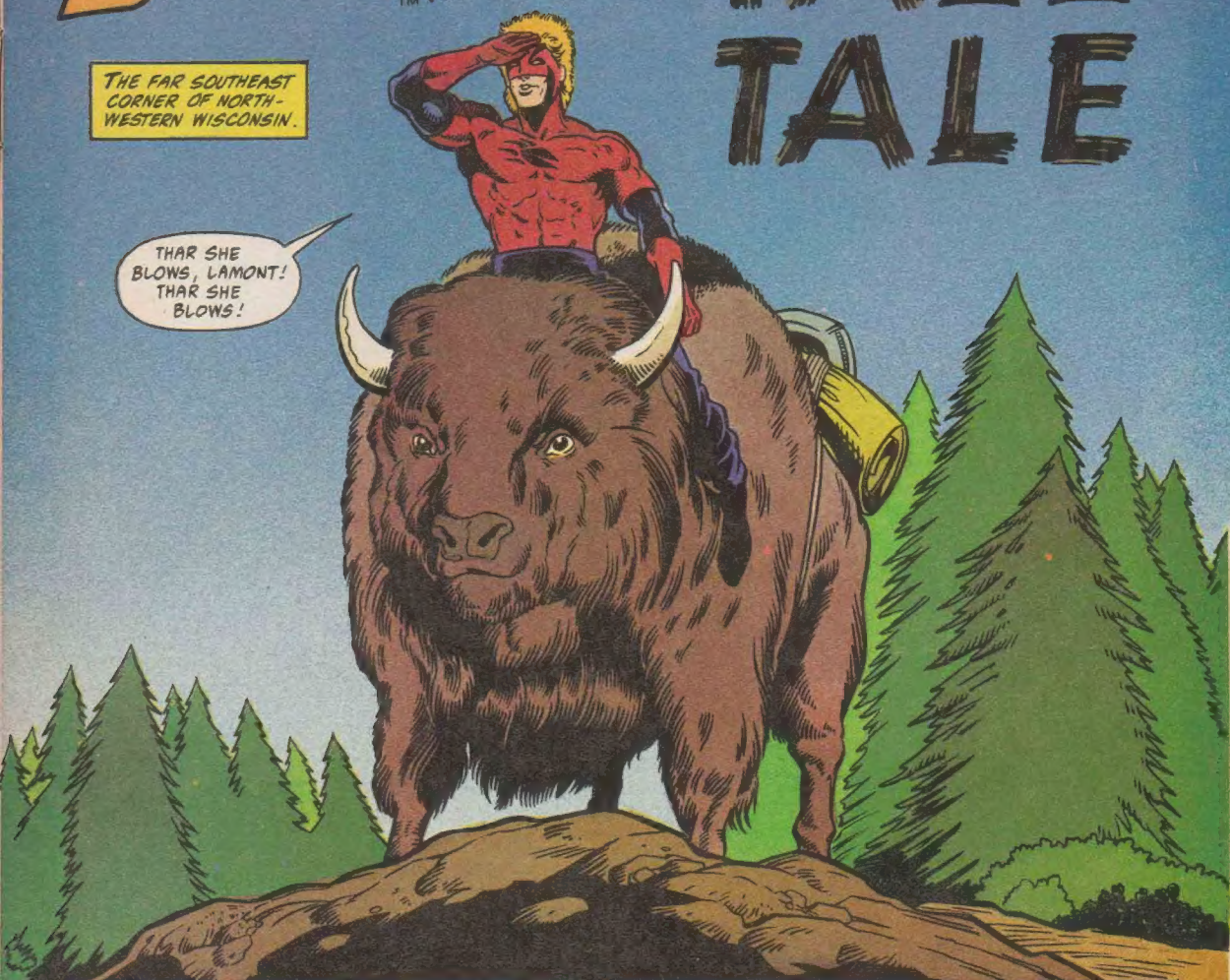


BADGER™

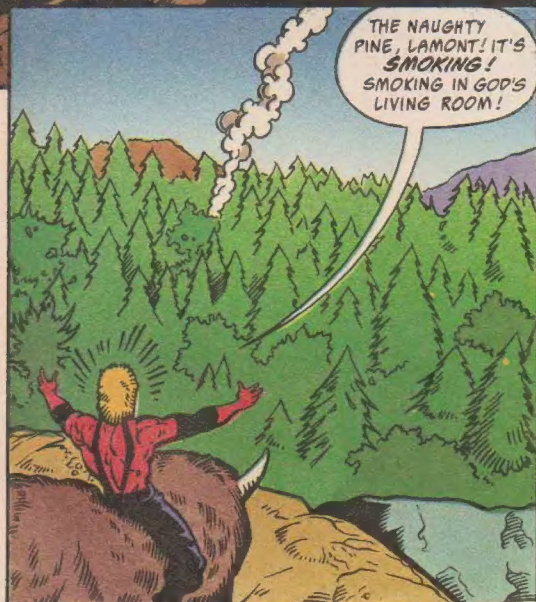
THE FAR SOUTHEAST
CORNER OF NORTH-
WESTERN WISCONSIN.

TALL TALE

THAR SHE
BLOWS, LAMONT!
THAR SHE
BLOWS!

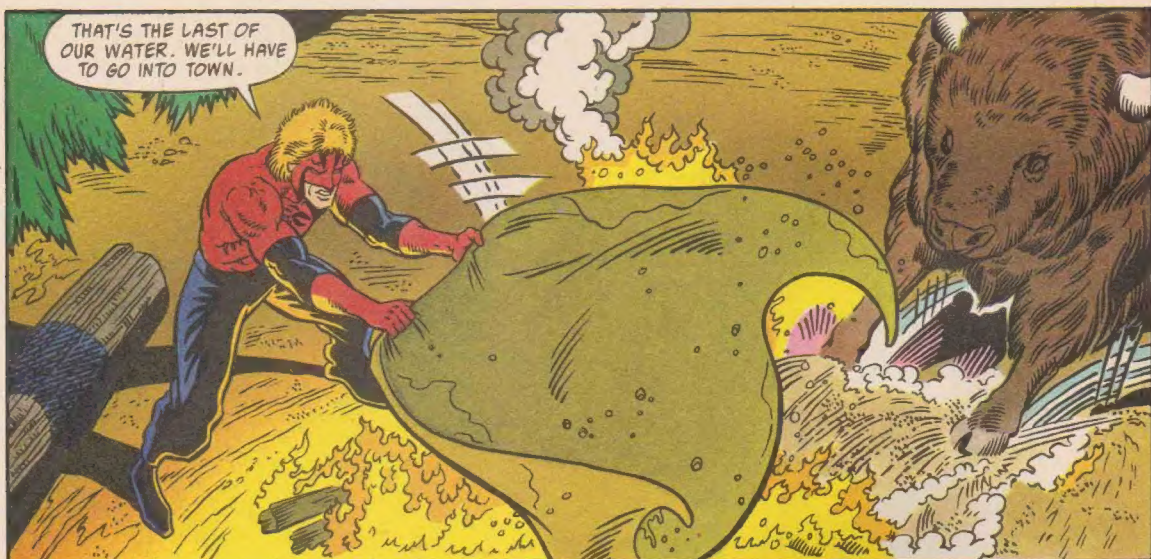


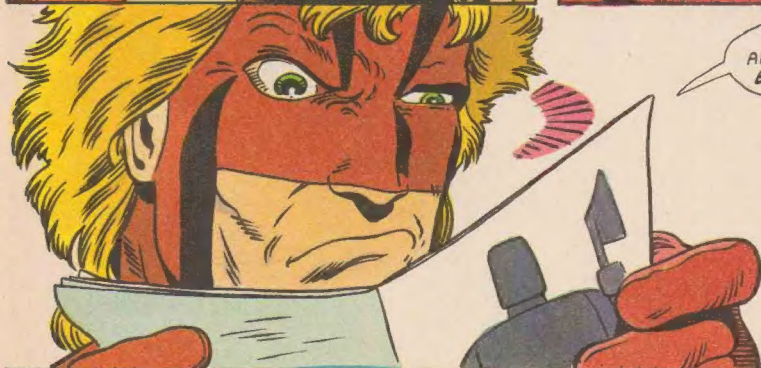
THE NAUGHTY
PINE, LAMONT! IT'S
SMOKING!
SMOKING IN GOD'S
LIVING ROOM!



LET'S RIDE,
LAMONT! WE MUST
EXTINGUISH YONDER
BLAZE LEST IT STINK
UP GOD'S DRAPES!



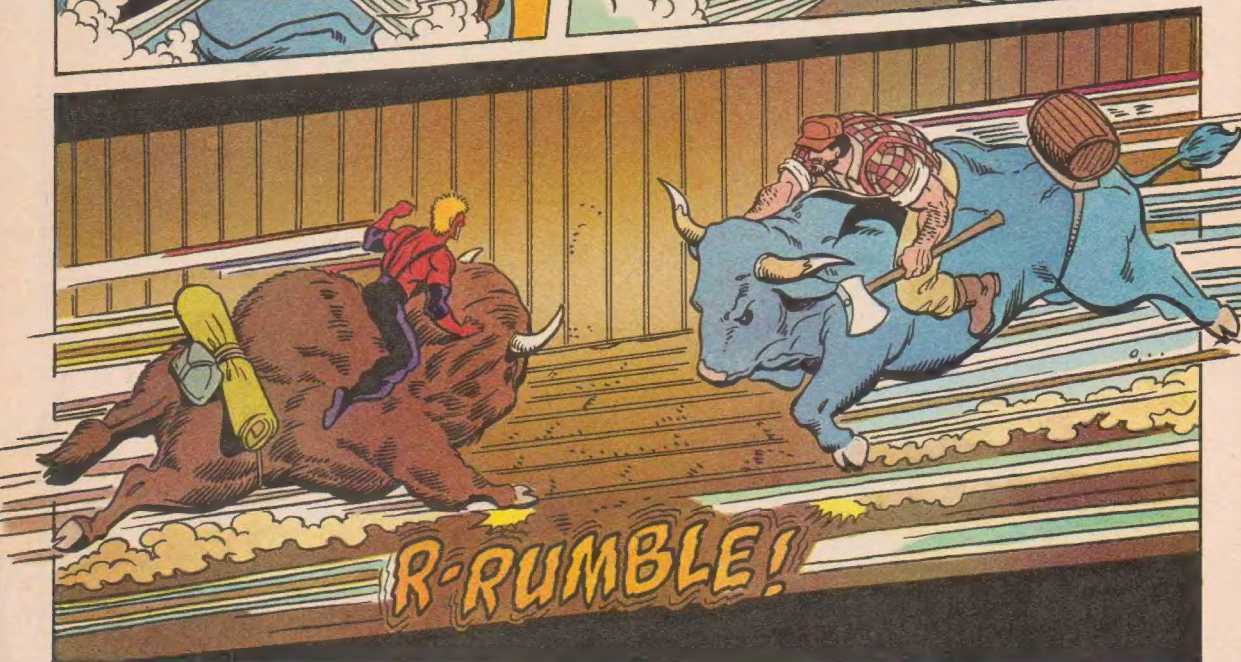


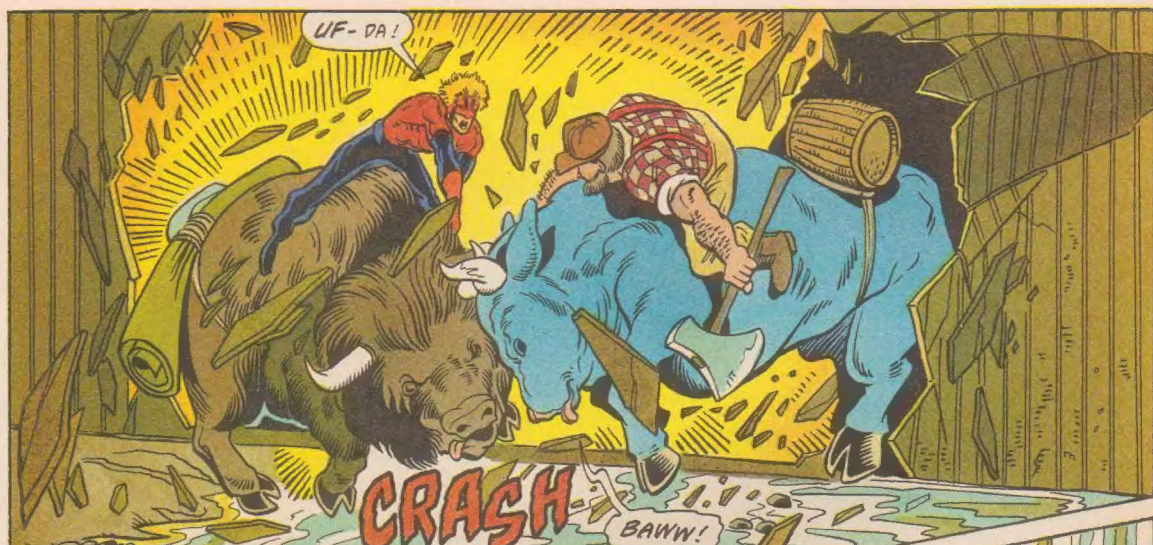


COME ON!
IF THIS CHARACTER'S SUCH HOT TUNA, WHY ISN'T HE OUT IN THE WOODS TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS? THIS IS THE DRIEST SUMMER IN TEN YEARS!











(GLUG! GLUG!) PRETTY GOOD STUFF! WHAT IS IT?

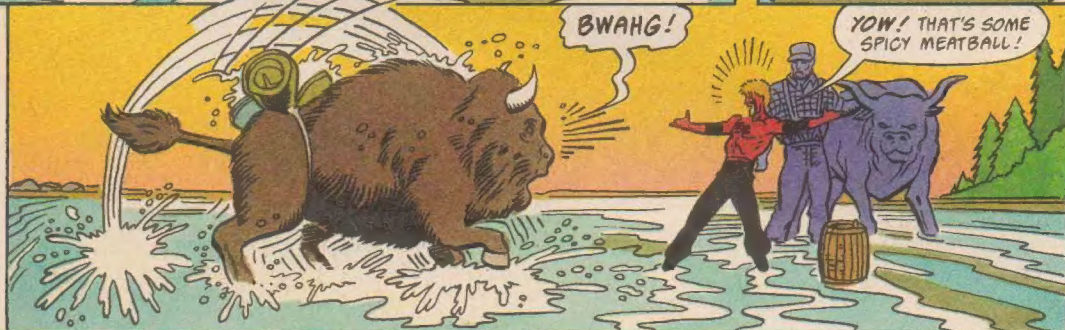
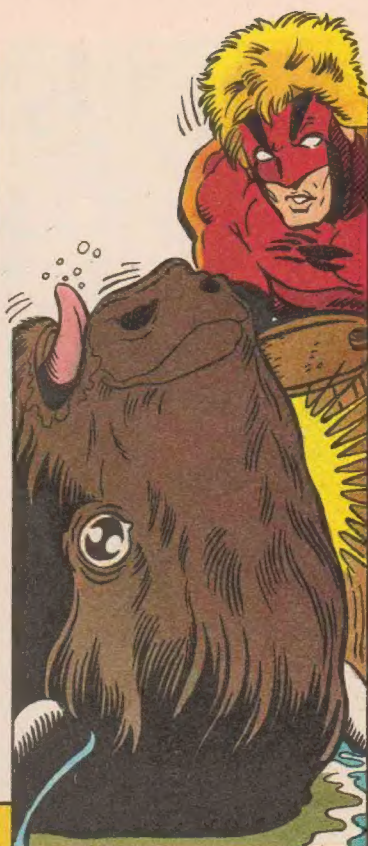
I MAKE IT MYSELF. GO ON -- GIVE THE BISON SOME.



TAKES A LOT OF ANTI-FREEZE TO GET A BUFFALO STARTED.

DON'T THINK WE'RE NOT GRATEFUL.

GLUG-GLUG-GLUG...



BWANG!

YOW! THAT'S SOME SPICY MEATBALL!



WELL, BIG GUY, IT'S BEEN REAL. IT'S BEEN REALER THAN REAL. DON'T TAKE ANY WOODEN NICKELS.

AYE-YUP, YUP YUP. AND DON'T YOU TAKE ANY BUFFALO CHIPS, HEY.



AND SO THE BADGER AND LAMONT PROCEEDED INTO TOWN.



AND SO THE BADGER PARKED OUTSIDE A BAR WHERE A NICKEL STILL BOUGHT AN HOUR'S WORTH OF PARKING.



AND SO THE BADGER ENTERED THE BAR AND BELLOWED...

BARTENDER! GIVE ME A BEER AND TWELVE FOR MY BUFFALO!



WHY DON'CHA GIVE THE BUFF A BARREL, THE WAY OL' PAUL DOES WITH BABE?

MISTER, YOU'RE A SENSITIVE, CARING KIND OF GUY.

HEY, PAL -- WHADDAYOU, SOME KINDA FAG?

I BEG YOUR PARDON?



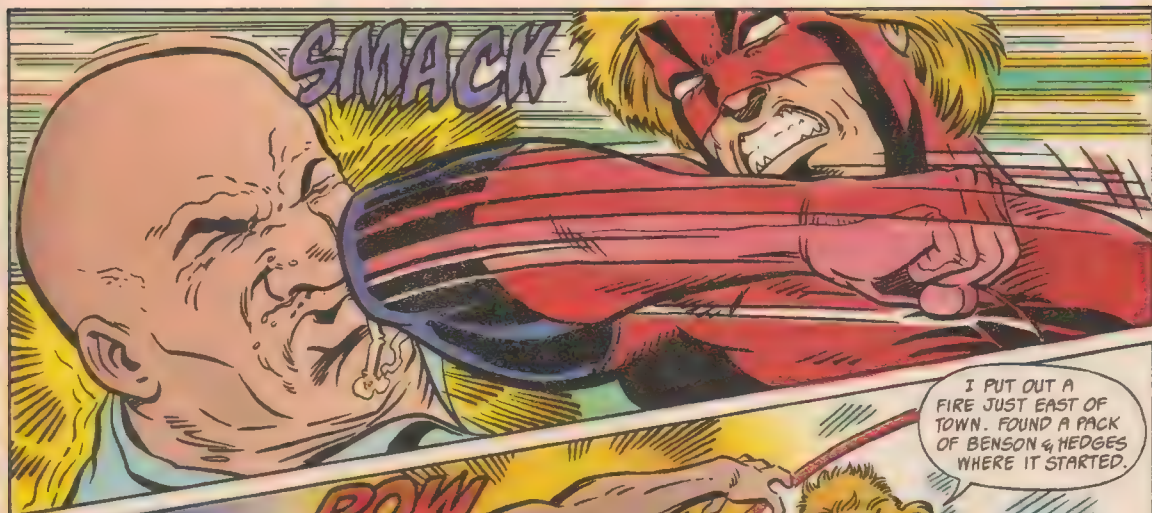
I SAID, ARE YOU SOME KINDA FAG? ON ACCOUNTA YOUR LANGWITCH. I MEAN, WHAT KINDA MAN TALKS ABOUT ANOTHER MAN LIKE HE WAS "SENSITIVE AND CARING?"

EXCUSE ME, BUT ARE THOSE BENSON & HEDGES YOU'RE SMOKING?

YEAH. WHAT ABOUT IT?



BUT THIS IS TOO PERFECT.

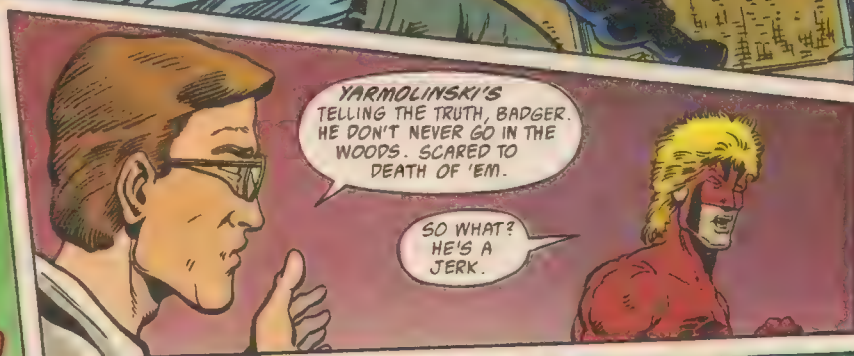


I PUT OUT A FIRE JUST EAST OF TOWN. FOUND A PACK OF BENSON & HEDGES WHERE IT STARTED.



NAUGHTY, NAUGHTY!

YOU CRAZY?-- I WAS NEVER IN THE WOODS!



YARMOLINSKI'S TELLING THE TRUTH, BADGER. HE DON'T NEVER GO IN THE WOODS. SCARED TO DEATH OF 'EM.

SO WHAT? HE'S A JERK.



YARMOLINSKI BUILT THIS TOWN. HE DOESN'T WANT TO SEE IT TORCHED.

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. HE'S STILL A JERK. WHERE'S THE PHONE?



DAISY? WHERE'S HAM? WE HAVE A SERIOUS FIRE CONDITION UP HERE.

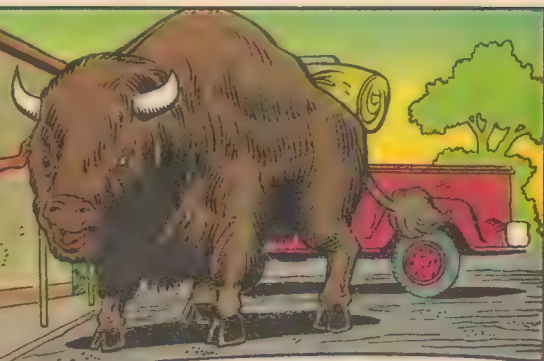
I'M SORRY. HAM HAS LOCKED HIMSELF IN HIS ROOM AND WON'T ANSWER. YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN, NORBERT.

WELL, TELL HIM WHEN YOU CAN!

BADGER, I'D GET OUT
OF TOWN FAST, I WAS
YOU. YARMOLINSKI
JUST WENT FOR THE
SHERIFF.

THANKS.

C'MON, LAMONT.
WE'VE GOT TO
GET OUT OF
TOWN.



WE'RE NOT
GOING TO HAVE A
PROBLEM, ARE
WE, SHERIFF?

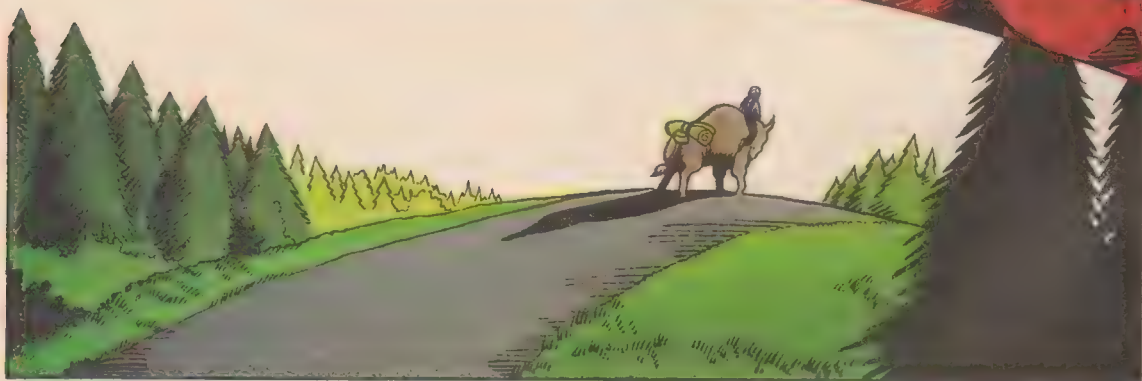
WELL, I
DON'T KNOW... I
DO HAVE A
COMPLAINT
ON FILE...

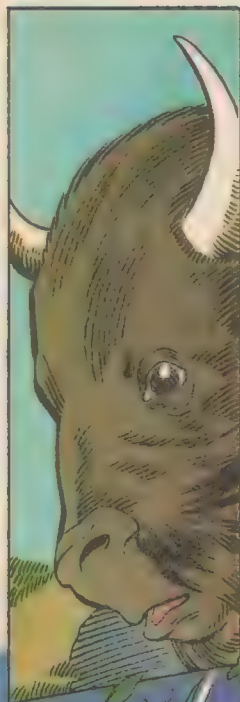


BUT IF YOU
WAS JUST TO KEEP
ON GOIN', I RECKON
NOTHING WOULD
STOP YOU... YOU
CATCH MY
DRIFT?



'DEED I
DO, SHERIFF.
WE'LL TROUBLE
YOU NO
MORE.





MORE NOTES FROM THE UNDERDOG

By the hot dog days of August, all this will be as old as the bones on the moon. But back in May, as I write, I am still some swell pup and all the faces are salty fresh and everything everybody says is moist and chewy.

And so, from back here in May, I am delighted to report on the Capital City Distributors' meeting in Madison, Wis., earlier this month, and all that I learned there.

We — being Rick Obadiah, Kurt Goldzung, Alex Wald and I — went north to present our case, our best face, to some hundreds of comic book retailers kind enough to buy our stuff; I went as well to see what the

Gasp benefit book for people suffering from acquired immune deficiency syndrome. It contains good original work by good well-known talent and you should buy it.

✓ I found out how Marvel and Detective Comics Comics were planning to deal with the superhero glut: morning and afternoon editions.

Coming this fall: *Ex-X-men vs. the X-truders* and *Batman: The Over Kill*.

✓ I really admired Detective Comics Comics new deluxe improved special format, incorporating decent paper, full color and many other fine features of 20th century printing. I only wish we had thought of it first.

"We went north to present our case, our best face, to some hundreds of comic book retailers kind enough to buy our stuff."

competition was selling that the retailers were buying.

Too young in the job for the Diamond meeting just a month before, this was my first formal foray for First.

And it was fine.

✓ I met **Will Eisner**, courtesy of Kitchen Sink Press. He was exactly what you would not expect: a gentle spirit, kind and warm, neither arrogant nor diffident. How he got anywhere in this business with that kind of attitude, I don't know.

✓ I previewed Graphitti Designs' **Steve Rude** portfolio, high quality reproductions of high quality covers the Dude painted for Crossroads and Nexus: all exceedingly extraordinary.

✓ I had dinner with the Dude and **Mike Baron**, and it was good.

✓ I saw two of the coolest promotional posters ever, both for **Howard Chaykin's Black Kiss**, from Vortex. What I saw of the book, what made it across the border, will not disappoint those legal adults waiting for it. Run right out to your local Friendly Frank's and buy the latest copy, I dare you.

✓ I paged through *StripAIDS*, a Last

✓ I learned Marvel's rationale for naming its latest superhero after John Belushi's last narcotic cocktail.

"We realize *Speedball* is a street term for crack cocaine," a company representative explained, knowingly.

"But the problem is," she said, "you can't come up with a name that *isn't* a street term for a drug."

I know, I know.

Hey, don't bogart that Grimjack... Really fine Sable.... Loose Badgers...

But don't worry, this representative said: *Speedball* is getting involved in an anti-drug storyline, almost immediately. *Along with his drug-fighting sidekicks, Benny and MaryJane.*

✓ I talked to any number of retailers at any number of cocktail parties after any number of cocktails, and I'm sure they all made wonderful suggestions. But all I recall is their happy flush faces and how much they seemed to like everything we do. This misperception will be corrected before too long, no doubt, but for just right now, I feel swell.

— Larry Doyle

FIRST IN AUGUST

Lone Wolf and Cub #16: By **Kazuo Koike** and **Goseki Kojima**. Cover painting by **Bill Sienkiewicz**.

Badger #42: A "Tall Tale." By **Mike Baron** and **Ron Lim**.

Nexus #51: "Kreed's Arm." By **Mike Baron** and **Paul Smith**.

Grimjack #53: There's a sinister presence in Cynosure. By **John Ostrander**, **Tom Mandrake**, and **Rico Rival**.

Whisper #19: The origin of **Whisper**. By **Steven Grant** and **Spyder**.

Howard Chaykin's American Flagg! #8: A Murder on the Trans-Avante-Garde Railway. By **Howard Chaykin**, **Mike Vosburg**, **John Moore**, **Richard Ory**, **Tony Van de Walle** and **Ken Bruzenak**. Reader discretion advised.

Elric: Bane of the Black Sword #3: By **Roy Thomas**, **Mark Pacella**, and **Nicholas Koenig**.

Hawkmoon: The Runestaff #4: The conclusion of both **The Runestaff** and the **High History of the Runestaff** series. By **Roger Salick** and **Rafael Kayanan**.

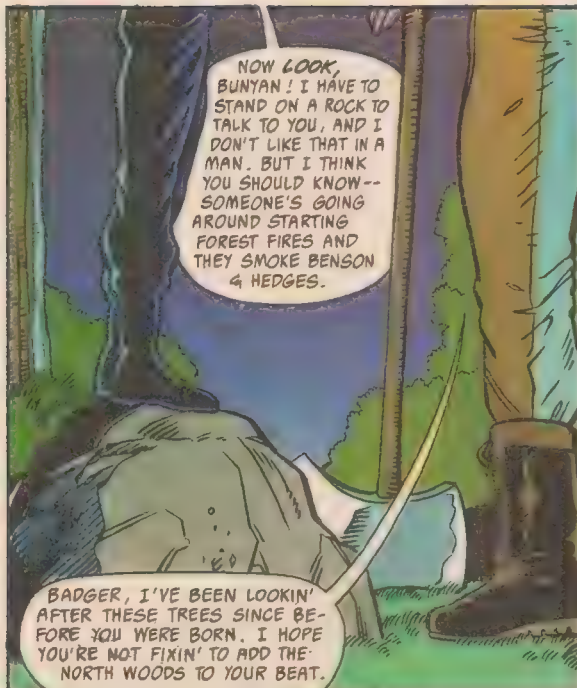
Sable #10: "Return Home." By **Marv Wolfman**, **Bill Jaaska**, and **E.R. Cruz**.

THE END?



On sale in September

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NOW LOOK, BUNYAN! I HAVE TO STAND ON A ROCK TO TALK TO YOU, AND I DON'T LIKE THAT IN A MAN. BUT I THINK YOU SHOULD KNOW-- SOMEONE'S GOING AROUND STARTING FOREST FIRES AND THEY SMOKE BENSON & HEDGES.

BADGER, I'VE BEEN LOOKIN' AFTER THESE TREES SINCE BEFORE YOU WERE BORN. I HOPE YOU'RE NOT FIXIN' TO ADD THE NORTH WOODS TO YOUR BEAT.

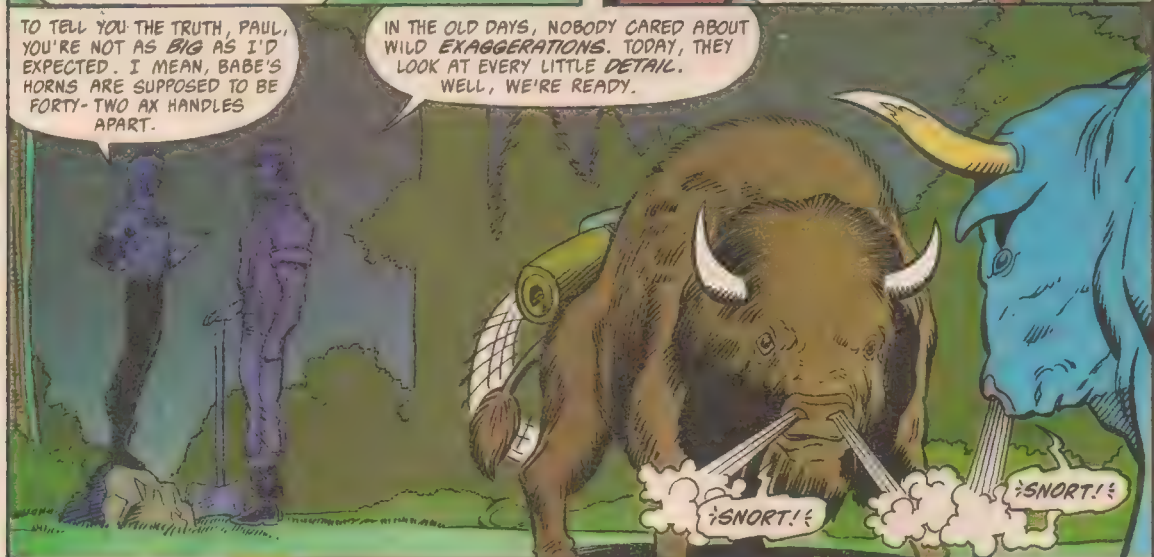


NOT AT ALL, PAUL. NOT AT ALL. I'M SIMPLY TAKING IN THE SIGHTS.

WHERE'S THE RAIN, IF YOUR WIZARD IS SO HOT?

WE'RE WORKING ON IT.

YOU DON'T THINK I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON? YOU THINK I'M AN OLD FART? I'M PREPARING TO MAKE A COMEBACK.



TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, PAUL, YOU'RE NOT AS BIG AS I'D EXPECTED. I MEAN, BABE'S HORNS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE FORTY-TWO AX HANDLES APART.

IN THE OLD DAYS, NOBODY CARED ABOUT WILD EXAGGERATIONS. TODAY, THEY LOOK AT EVERY LITTLE DETAIL. WELL, WE'RE READY.

!SNORT!:

!SNORT!:

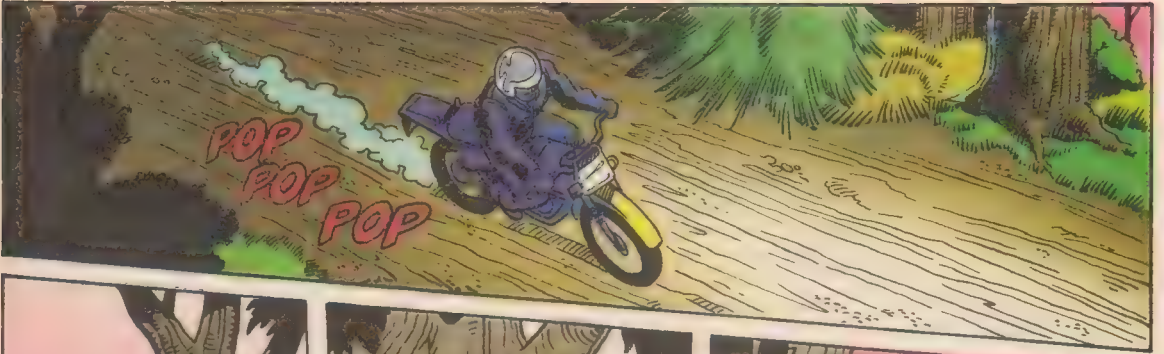


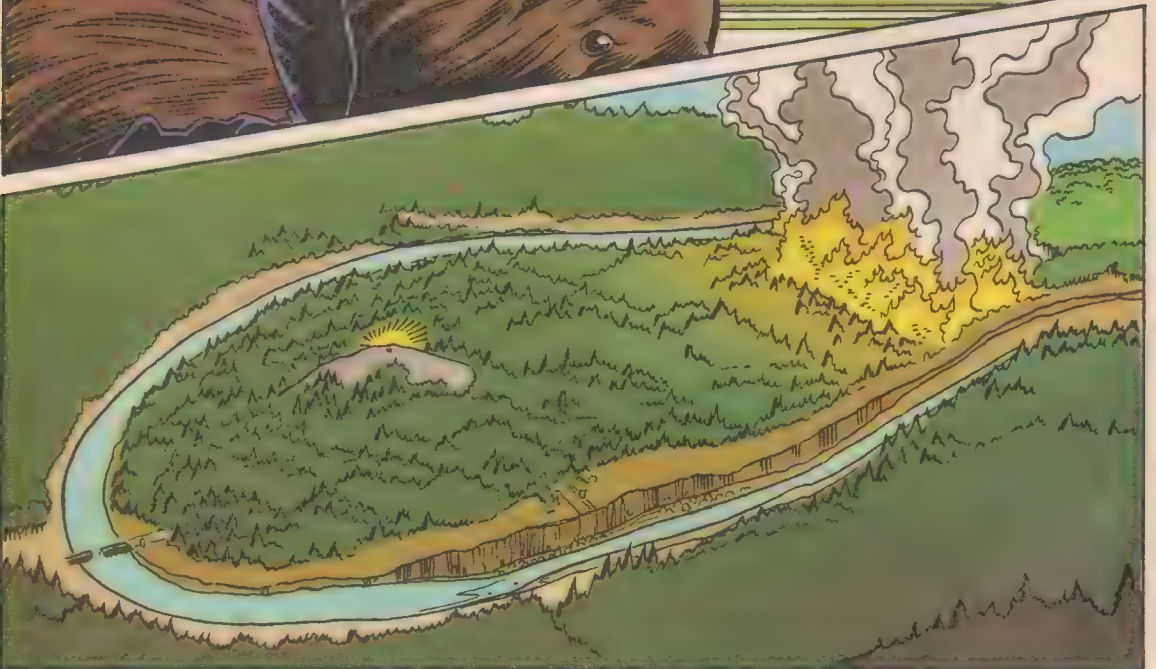
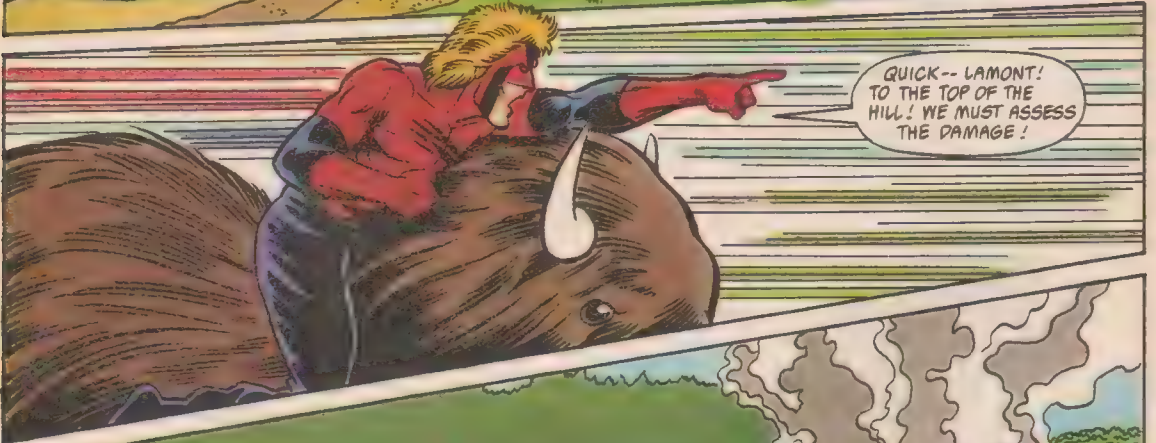
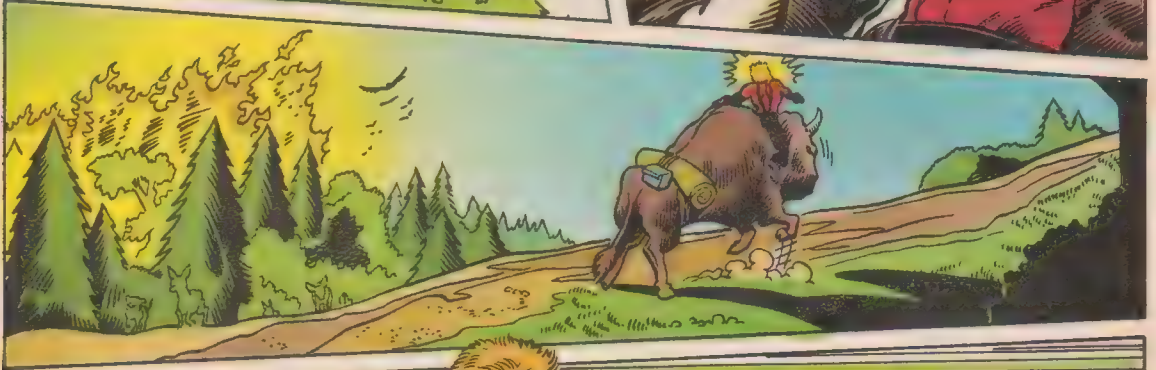
WE'RE GONNA HAVE THE COOKS SKATING ON THE GIANT SKILLETS, WE'RE GONNA HAVE THE 800 FOOT FIRS, WE'RE EVEN GONNA HAVE A GUEST SHOT BY PECOS BILL.



WELL, I WISH YOU LUCK.

UP-DA. JUST REMEMBER WHAT I SAID-- YOU GOT A NICE LITTLE LEGEND CARVED OUT DOWN SOUTH-- DON'T BE DOGGIN' MY TRACKS.

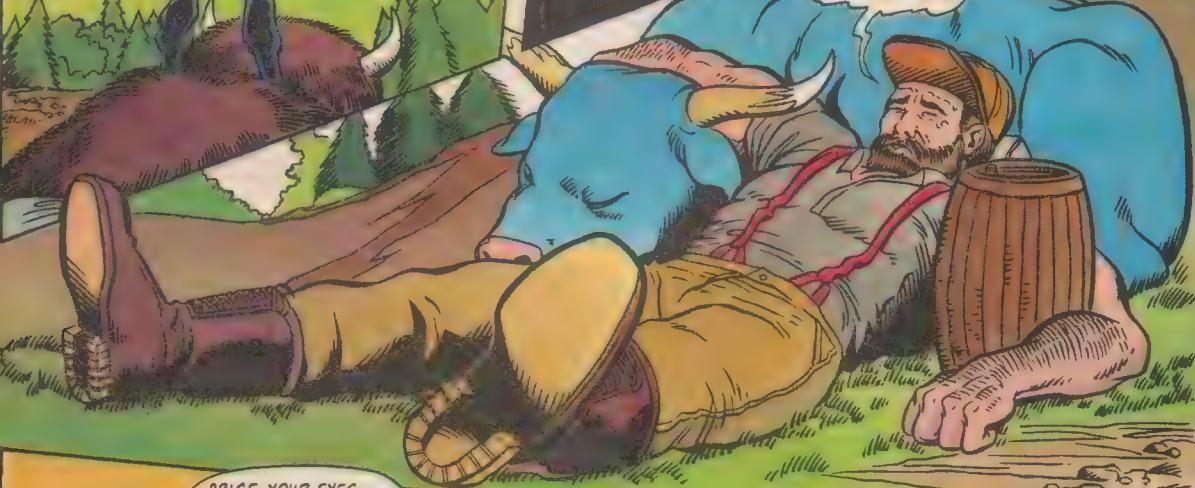




THE FIRE'S GOT THE PENINSULA SEALED OFF-- ALL THE ANIMALS WILL BE TRAPPED ON THIS SIDE OF THE RIVER. NOT TO MENTION THE INFORMATION LADY.

GOD'S DRAPES WILL BE RUINED! WE'VE GOT TO FIND BUNYAN! HE'LL KNOW WHERE GOD KEEPS THE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS!

AHOY THE BLUE OX! ALL HANDS ON DECK!



ARISE YOUR EYES AND CHECK THE SKIES! AWAKE BEFORE WE BE FRENCH FRIES!

HUH? (GZORP)



BADGER! (CHIC!) YOU'D BETTER BE A BAD DREAM OR I'M FEEDING YOU TO BABE...



GET UP! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? RIP VAN WINKLE?

VAN WINKLE?! HERE?! NOT HIM, TOO!

NO, PAUL, NO! THE FIRE IS HERE!



WHAT FIRE?



Who is she really?



Whisper

Alexis

Diane

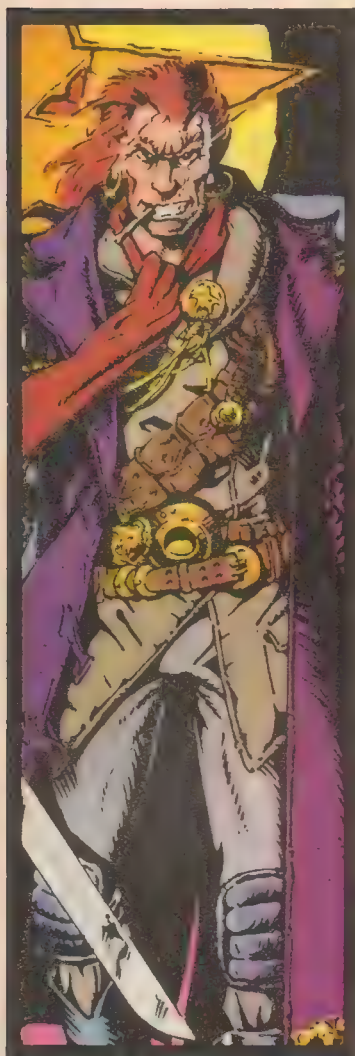
The origin of Whisper.

Whisper #19.

On sale in September

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Not just another pretty face



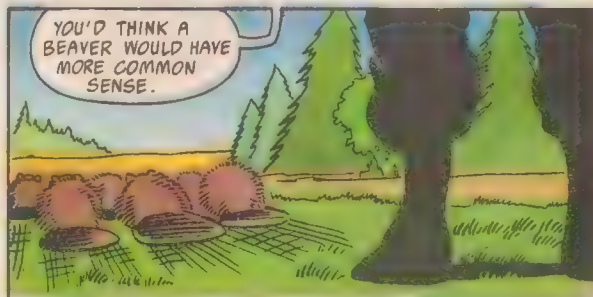
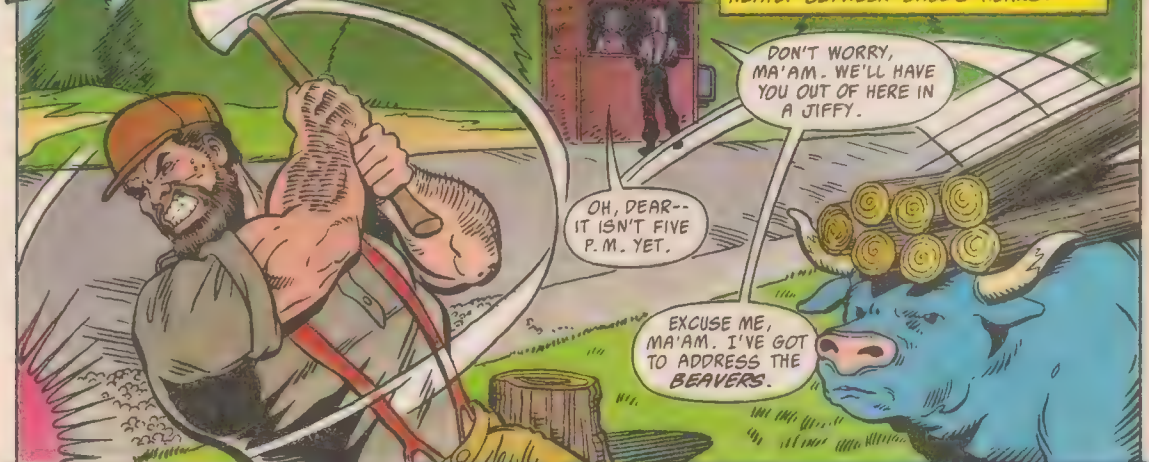
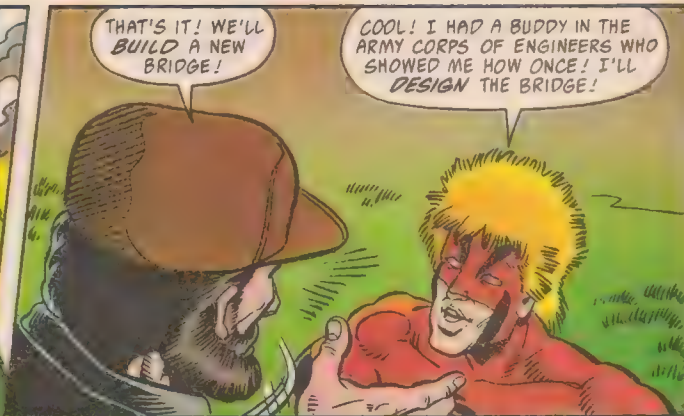
It's not John Gaunt, but it is Grimjack.

**grim
jack**

55

On sale in October from

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I DON'T KNOW IF THIS
SOFT PINE WILL HOLD
OUR WEIGHT...

I THOUGHT YOU SAID
YOU'D SHRUNK!

I COULD HAVE
DONE THIS MYSELF!
I DON'T NEED
YOUR HELP!

ALL RIGHT! IT'S
FINISHED, AND NOT A
MOMENT TOO SOON!
QUICK-- LET'S PUSH IT
OVER THE EDGE!

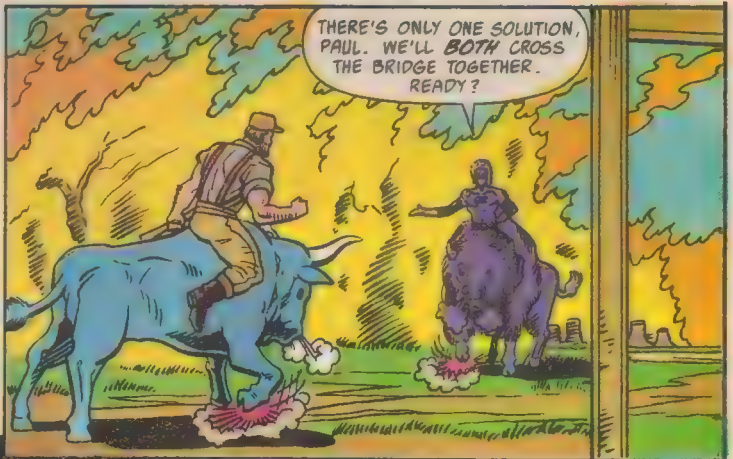
GET DOWN
AND PUSH, YOU LAZY
CARPETBAGGER!

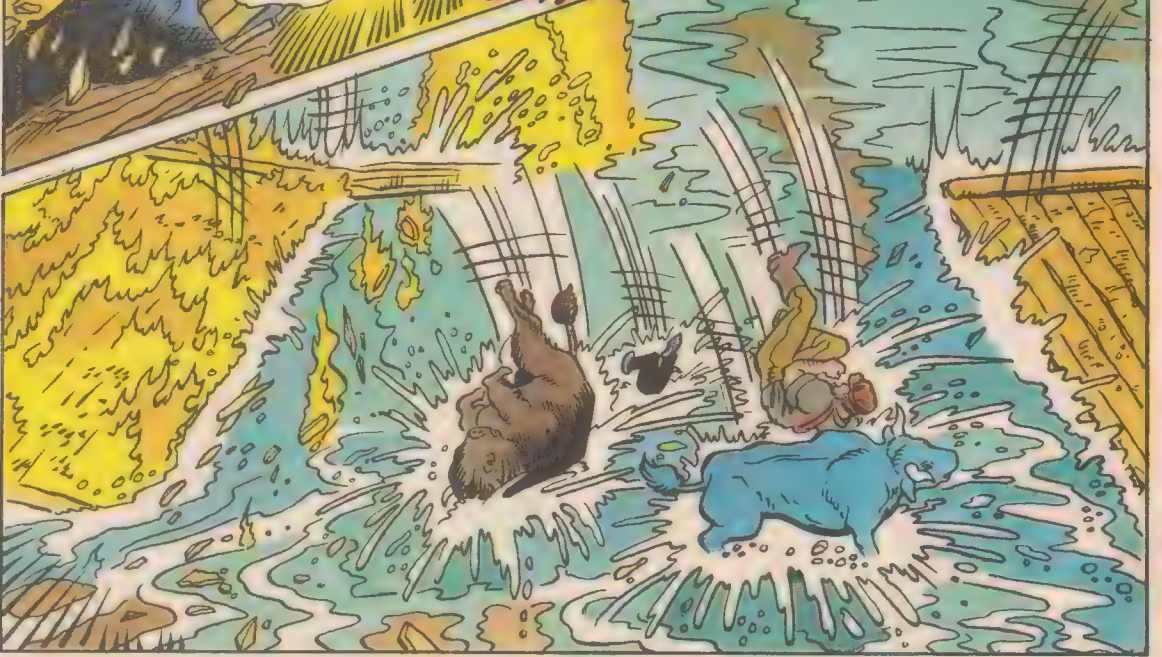
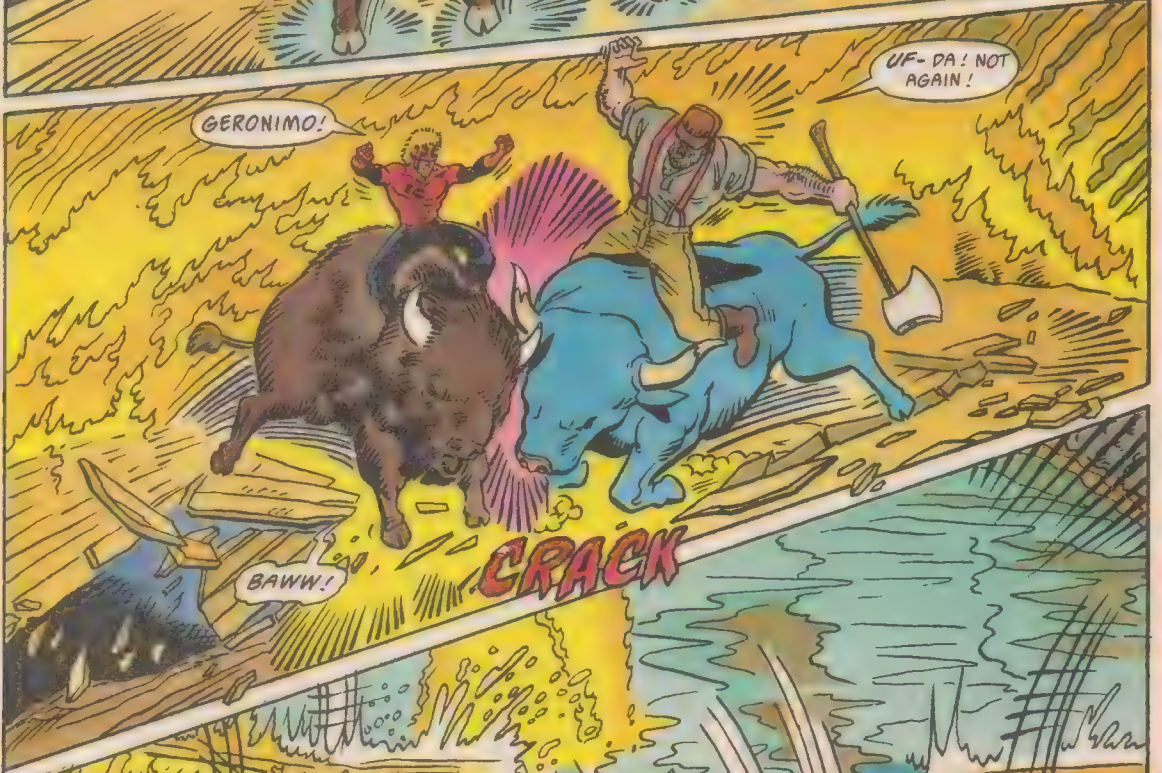
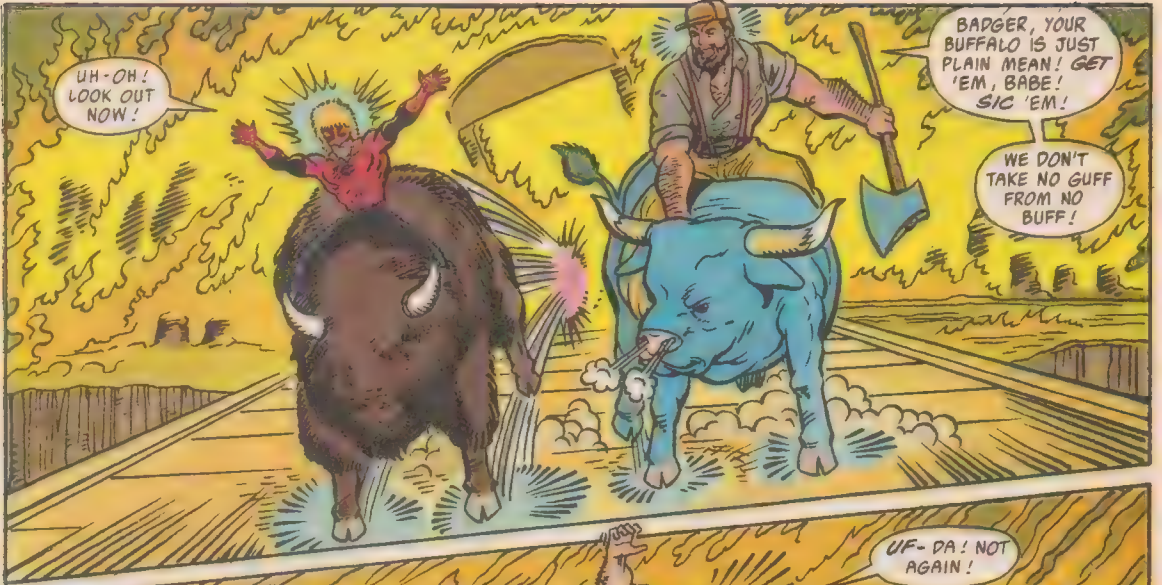
HEAVE!
HEAVE!

THIS IS MY
BUFFALO AND HE
NEEDS ME TO PUSH
PROPERLY!

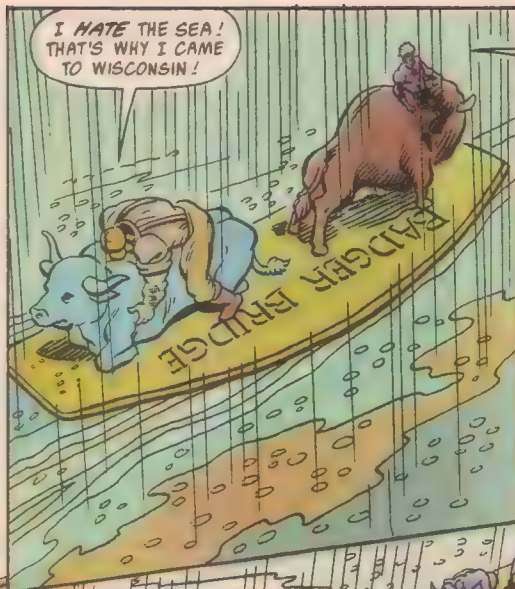
HEAVE!
HEAVE!

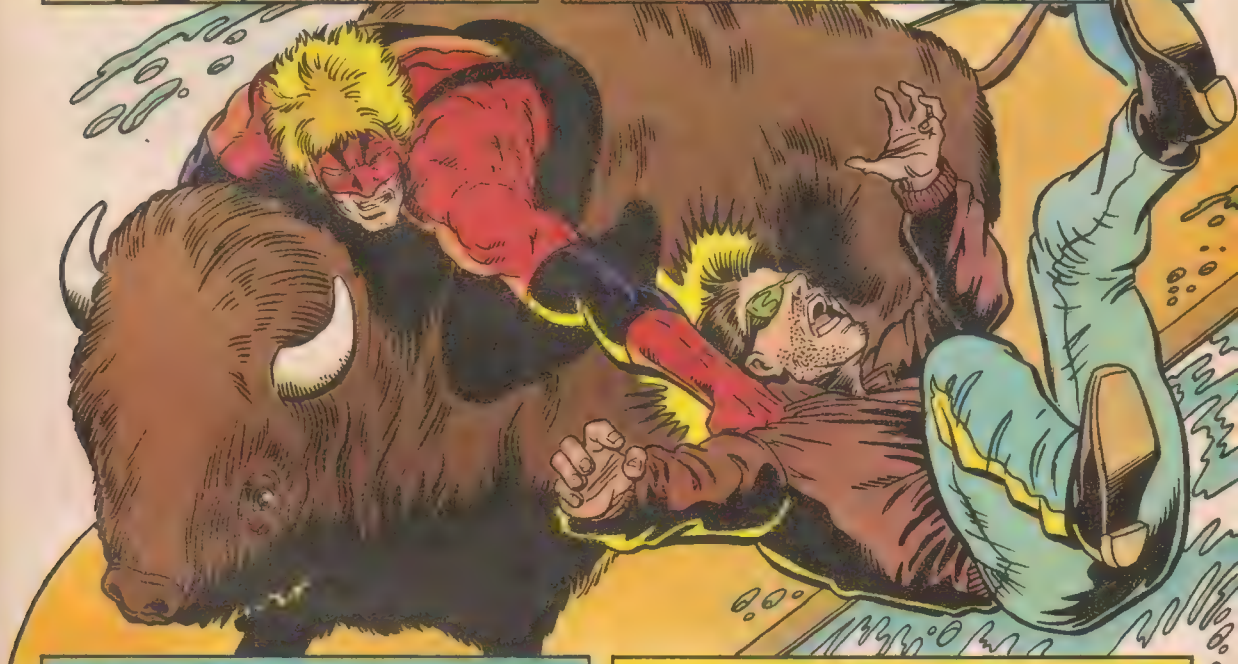
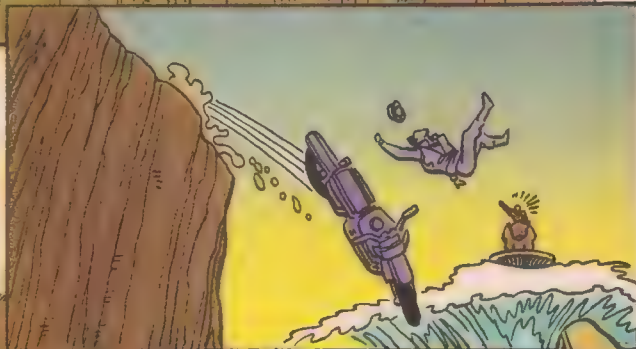
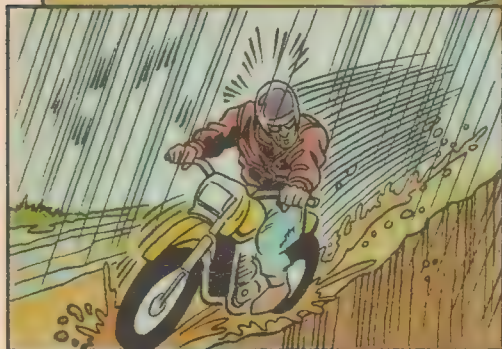
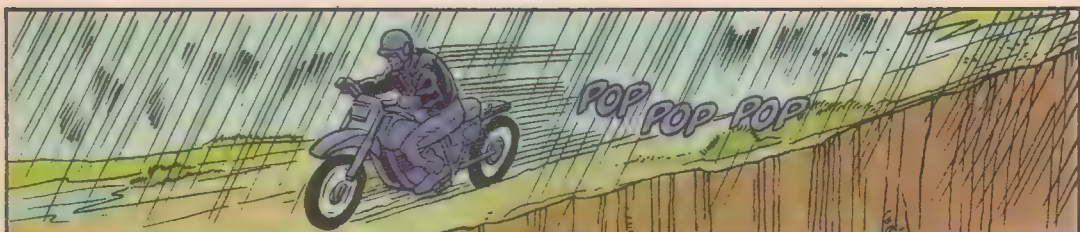














Dear LARRY,:

C/O FIRST COMICS
435 N. LASALLE
CHICAGO IL
60610

Dear Larry, Mike, Neil, Rick and company,

When I buy a comic book that has two guys on the cover, standing on ladders, building the logo, I know I'm in for a treat.

Indeed. "Treat" is an ample and an exceptionally articulate word to describe Badger #39. It was a treat to see Norbert with the parody of the infamous beer dog (does that make it a "doggie treat"?) although I wish Norbie would have blackened his other eye (Yeah, I know, you comic book creators have enough problems with crusading censors trying to shut you down without getting the animal cruelty people on your back. Still, it's a nice thought.). Where the heck was Norbert's recently rescued doggie while this was going on? I want to see the "Badger-hound" (has a nice ring to it, doesn't it?) get his own little Badger mask and start being a regular character.

I also don't give a crown and sixpence who and their cheese dip thinks Clonezone should return. I for one, enjoy longer Badger stories and don't miss old luggage-face one iota. Or even *two* iotas. Not even those big expensive french iotas that are so popular with you young people these days.

I like cover-to-cover Badger

action (and considering that the back cover had the Badger on both the inside and *outside* this might actually be the first *true* use of the term "cover-to-cover.")

Please keep running these ads long after the comic they advertise are out of print, just so I get my money's worth.) so I don't actually require a back-up story featuring another character. Only the Japanese, who read their comics front-to-back think Clonezone is a super-star. All the other readers who want CZ back to cut down on Badger's page-count just want to get their letter published by saying **BRING BACK CLONEZONE**. Trust me on this one.

T.E. Pouncy
Elsenore Castle
Wichita, KS 67208

Dear Mike,

This is a first for me — finding fault with a Badger script. But really! #39 was yuck poo! Throughout the whole comic Badger related to the other people in a quite lucid manner. For shame! What of the Badger of old who did totally incomprehensible things for equally incomprehensible reasons — with the knowledge that at least it made sense to him.

And what's become of Larry? I don't recall him being

mentioned at all in #39. Look, Mike — I can understand that maybe you've had an off day — that time of the month maybe — but PLEASE keep Badger INSANE.

What makes it hardest to handle is that he's quite troppo in the Nexus crossover I read at about the same time. Badger's just not Badger the way he is — please give us a little more insanity and a little less reason.

P.S. I liked the idea of the dog being a cokehead. Too few people realize just how many animals are into drugs. I wiggled out when I found my cat sniffing petrol.

Bernie Greenslade
2#62 Arthur
Red Hill, Queensland
Australia 4059

Attn: Larry

Dear Larry (Whoa. Like Deja Vu.),

This is the first letter I've ever written to a comic book. (Okay I lied.) But I just had to tell you that I bought just this one issue of Badger (#39) and I am hooked already (maybe Nancy was right?!). Who would guess that a famous "Party Animal" was a vicious breed of dog? Can you even imagine how many children have been torn limb from limb after trying to offer a pit bull terrier "a cool one?" How

"While I was reading the Badger #39, I was drinking a glass of milk, and I laughed so hard that milk came out of my nose and dripped all over my comic.

"Damn."

many voluptuous blondes in string bikinis have had their throats torn out trying to... never mind. THAT is disgusting.

Anyway, I'm here to tell you I will be a loyal, devoted, staunch Badger fan always standing by this great book, come hell or high water, until something better comes along.

Y'know, I once had my own BRUSH WITH DEATH against a fierce pit bull. Yup. That's me. Thom "BRUSH WITH DEATH" Lake.

I was doing one of these door-to-door gigs while I was a POOR HUNGRY college student. Selling these open caskets people put on their roofs. Y'know, the ones that look like the sleep-chambers from the movie "Alien." So I was walking past this particularly sleazy looking house when a pit bull sits up on the front porch and starts growling (probably pissed that they weren't going to get the free gift). So this pit bull growls even louder and breaks into a trot across the lawn.

Thinking quickly on my feet (that's me: Thom "T.Q.O.M.F." Lake) I offered him my clipboard, which he took in his teeth, in a bear-trap GRIP OF DEATH that pit bulls are famous for. So he remained

until his owner came out of the house, called his dog, and freed my clipboard from the JAWS OF DEATH.

If I learned one thing from this experience it was: if your production is low on any job, ALWAYS HAVE A GOOD STORY. I hope you learned something, too.

Thom E. Lake
2410 Colusa Street
Pinole, CA 94564

Yo Larry,

I really loved the latest issue of Badger. It was great! I haven't bought your comic much in the past, but now you have a reader for life!

It's funnier than anything else I read this month. Really! In fact, while I was reading the Badger #39, I was drinking a glass of milk, and I laughed so hard that milk came out of my nose and dripped all over my comic.

Damn.

Jeff "LW" Lacasse
1516 West Cherry Avenue
Lompoc, CA 93436

Hullo,

BADGER #39: HA, HA, HA,
HA, HA, HA, HA, HA, HA, HA,
HA, HA, HA, HA, HA, HA, HA,
HA, HA, HA, HA, HA, HA, HA,
HA, HA, HA, HA, HA, HA, HA,
HA, HA, HA, HA, HA, HA, HA,
HA, HA, HA, HA, HA, HA, HA!

What a strange guy you are, Mike. This is one of my favorite comics. Come to think of it, what a strange guy I am.

Jay Neale III
Route 1, Box 2
Trinity, TX 75862-9703

You know, folks, we don't make any of these letters up.



NEXT ISSUE: Something stinks in Barnveld, and it isn't garlic. Badger, Ham and the Senator go off on a high stakes vampire hunt. By Mike Baron and Ron Lim.

— Larry Doyle

Who will be
the next
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Nexus mini-series
by Nexus creators
**Mike Baron and
Steve Rude**



Beginning in September

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(BERLIN) Sept. 5—A massive phalanx of Soviet troops and armaments poured into East Germany Monday for the largest military exercise ever conducted by Warsaw Pact nations.

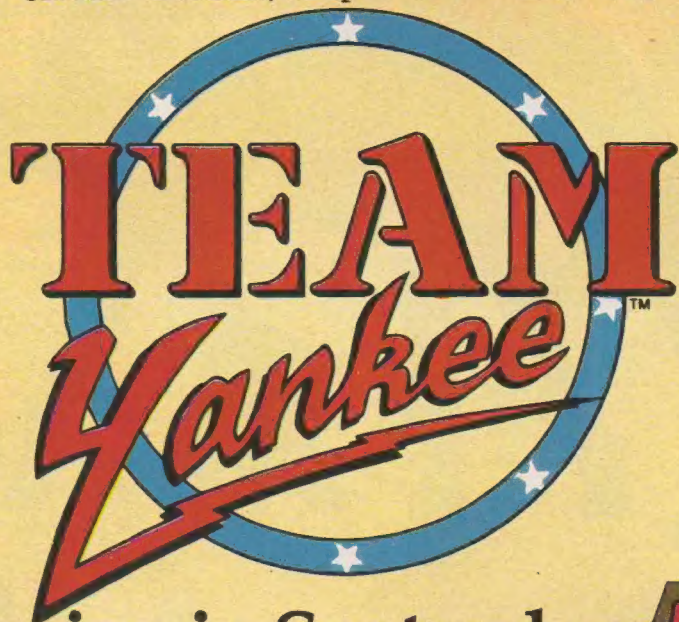
(WASHINGTON) Sept. 6—The Pentagon Tuesday expressed concern over an unprecedented buildup of Soviet military might in East Germany, which one official said "looks less like an exercise and more like a dress rehearsal."

(NEW YORK) Sept. 7—The United States lodged an official complaint with the United Nations Security Council Wednesday to protest "destabilizing" military exercises being conducted by the Soviet Union in East Germany.

A spokesman for the Soviet embassy called the protest "ridiculous" and the exercise "an internal matter of no concern to the United States."

(BERLIN) Sept. 8—NATO forces were put on alert Thursday in the face of reports that Soviet troops had abandoned their military exercises and were lining up along the East German border.

(WEST GERMAN BORDER) Sept. 9—WW III, Day One.



Beginning in September

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